

PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

On

**COORDINATED SUB-PROJECT ON FARMING SYSTEMS RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT FOR FARMERS' LIVELIHOOD IMPROVEMENT: BARC COMPONENT**



**Duration: From February 2012 to December 2013
(Sub-project ID: 383)**

**Submitted to
Director, PIU-BARC
Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council
Farmgate, Dhaka-1215**

**Submitted by
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Executive Summary

The SPGR Coordinated Sub-project on “Farming Systems Research and Development for Farmers’ Livelihood Improvement” is coordinated by Crops Division, Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) and implemented by NARS Institutions viz. Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI), Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI), Bangladesh Jute Research Institute (BJRI), Bangladesh Sugarcane Research Institute (BSRI), Bangladesh Institute of Nuclear Agriculture (BINA), Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute (BLRI), Bangladesh Fisheries Research Institute (BFRI) and Bangladesh Forest Research Institute (BFRI). The goal of the project is to develop farming systems technologies to maximize productivity and efficient utilization of resources. The project commenced in late with a holistic approach that includes the integration of different components of farming systems like crops, livestock, fisheries, agro-forestry and homestead agro-forestry. Different site activities include: site characterization, development of sustainable cropping pattern(s), improvement of existing livestock production systems, improvement of fish production systems, development of homestead vegetables production and agro-forestry systems.

Recruitment of scientific personnel and staff of the project had been completed as per GOB policies and BARC guidelines. A National Task Force Committee had been formed to oversee the FSRD project activities.

Inception workshop, program planning workshop, coordination meeting and progress review workshop were organized as per project proposal and the proceedings of each workshop were distributed among the participants for necessary action. BARC Coordination Unit in collaboration with an agricultural economist developed a structured questionnaire for baseline survey and was sent to the Principal Investigators of participating institutions.

Two orientation trainings, one for 19 newly recruited Field Assistants (FAs) and the other for 30 newly recruited Scientific Officers (SOs) were organized on 23-24 September 2012 and 27-28 November 2012, respectively to acquaint them with Farming Systems Research and Development (FSRD) activities. Besides, training on FSRD technologies was also organized in two batches on 07-09 March 2013 and 18-21 March 2013, respectively to improve the skills of both project and core scientists. Several field visits were organised by BARC Coordination Unit to monitor the progress of FSRD activities at farmers’ level. After each visit, visit report along with comments and suggestions was prepared and sent to the concerned Principal Investigators for necessary action. Procurement of capital items had been completed as per project proposal.

A training manual consists of 24 lecture notes related to FSRD methodology and technologies was compiled after necessary corrections and distributed among the trainees.

During the project extended period (From November 2013 to December 2013) Annual Review Workshop, Project Completion Workshop and Technology Packaging Workshop will be organized at the end of the project.

1. Sub-Project title:

“Coordinated Sub-Project on Farming Systems Research and Development for Farmers’ Livelihood Improvement”: BARC component

2. Coordinator (with full address with phone and e-mail):

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3. Investigator:

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4. Duration:

February 2012 to October 2013 and extended up to December 2013

5. Date of approval: 2nd May 2012

6. Total approved Budget (Taka):

Tk 74, 57,324.00 (Seventy four lac fifty seven thousand three hundred and twenty four only)

Total approved Budget (Tk.): 74, 57,324.00

Total fund received (Tk.): 46,02,133.00

Total fund spent (Tk.): 45,33,586.00

Unspent/balance fund (Tk.): 68547.00

Reason for the balance: Delayed recruitment

7. Justification of undertaking the project

Marginal and small farmers together with landless farmers constitute more than 70 percent of the total farm families in Bangladesh. With increasing population and fragmentation of land, small farmers are becoming marginal and marginal farmers are becoming landless. At the same time due to rapid urbanization, agricultural lands are diminishing gradually. Farming in Bangladesh is mainly subsistence level but the farmers’ demand for different commodities is unlimited. It has been learned from different studies that only the crop component cannot meet the diversified needs of the farmers. There is a need of other components of farming systems which are closely inter-linked and mutually dependent with each other. This interrelationship of different components of farming systems suggests that Farming Systems Research and Development (FSRD) should be in the context of “holistic” approach. In Bangladesh system research was initiated in the year of 1974. At present, wider participation of NARS institutes under the National Coordinated Farming Systems Research and Development (NCFSRD) program of BARC has been ensured. NARS institutes have generated a good number of modern technologies. But the rate of adoption of these technologies at farm level is

inadequate. Development of new technologies are not fruitful/useful, unless and until they are disseminated to the stakeholders for wider scale of adoption. “Farming Systems Research and Development” sub-project under SPGR, NATP Phase-1 has been initiated to include the proven technologies developed by NARS institutes on crops and cropping patterns, plantation crops, home garden and family nutrition, livestock and fish production as well as other income generating activities in the new proposals. Apart from this, the project will provide feedback information from farmers to the researchers and policy makers for further improvement of FSRD program.

8. Sub-project objectives:

The general objectives of the FSR sub-projects were –

- to develop location-specific system-based technologies
- to modify/fine tune on-station technologies generated by NARS institutes at different Agro-ecological Zones (AEZs)
- to integrate component technologies (crops, livestock, fisheries and agro-forestry and homestead, etc.) for improving farm practices & establish linkage with different stakeholders
- to improve family income and livelihoods

The specific objectives of BARC Component were -

- to coordinate, plan, monitor and evaluate the Farming Systems Research and Development activities involved organizations
- to improve the skill of the scientists/extensions in relation to FSRD

9. Methodology

Methodological framework, developed by Asian Cropping Systems Network (ACSN) and BAU was used in this FSRD sub-project. Prior to start the project activities, BARC invited project proposals from the public funded national institutions and universities. In response, project proposals were submitted to Project Implementation Unit (PIU) at which Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) acted as a coordinating institution and NARS institutions viz., BARI, BRRI, BJRI, BSRI, BINA, BFRI (Fisheries), BFRI (Forest) and BLRI worked as implementing institutions. Project coordinator, associate coordinator, principal investigator and recruited technical staff of BARC discussed with the PIs and Co-PIs of the implementing institutions to know the progress of the on going FSRD activities, achievements and problems/constraints faced by them, based on which suggestions were made and provided to the respective PIs to run the project smoothly. BARC Coordination Unit monitored FSRD activities that had been executed by different partner organizations. Comments/suggestions made by the monitoring team were sent to the respective PIs for further improvement. BARC also arranged inception workshop and two review workshops on the progress of the project activities. As a coordinating organization, BARC provided technical advice and other management supports for the better implementation of the project activities.

10. Results and discussions

BARC-component of FSRD Sub-project did not conduct experiments in the farmers’ fields. However, as a Coordination Unit facilitated the work activities of different participating organizations. Major activities that had been performed by BARC Coordination Unit for proper implementation of the project activities are delineated below:

i) Manpower recruitment

Recruitment One Farming System Expert, One Senior Scientific Officer, One Computer Operator and One Office Attendant was done as per GOB policies and BARC guidelines for smooth running of the project. BARC Coordination Unit also recruited 30 Scientific Officers having 3, 10, 8 and 9 from Crop, Livestock, Fisheries and Agricultural economics disciplines, respectively. Furthermore, 19 Field Assistants was recruited through a

competitive examination. Scientific Officers and Field Assistants was posted against different FSRD sites of participating institutes. Details are shown in Tables 1& 2.

Table1. Technical personnel and support staff of FSRD sub-project, BARC Component

Type of personnel	Post Provision	Number	Status	Date of recruitment
Technical	Farming System Expert	01	Completed	15 July 2012
	Senior Scientific Officer	01	Completed	10 July 2012
Support staff	Computer Operator	01	Completed	19 July 2012
	Office Attendant	01	Completed	15 September 2012

Table 2. Number, discipline and working place of Scientific Officers (SO), FSRD Sub-project

Participating institutes	Post Provision	Place of Posting	Discipline of SO	Working locations/plaes
BARI	2	BARI, Rangpur	SO (Livestock) 1 SO (Fisheries) 1 SO (Econ.) 1	Lahirirhat, Rangpur
		BARI, Sherpur	SO (Livestock) 1 SO (Fisheries) 1 SO (Econ.) 1	Kushumhati, Sherpur Mahinanda, Kishoreganj
		BARI, Noakhali	SO (Livestock) 1 SO (Fisheries) 1 SO (Econ.) 1	Hazirhat, Noakhali Sadar
		BARI, Sylhet	SO (Livestock) 1 SO (Fisheries) 1 SO (Econ.) 1	Jalalpur, Sylhet Sadar Joghotpur, Habiganj Sadar
BRRI	3	BRRI, Barisal	SO (Livestock) 1 SO (Fisheries) 1 SO (Econ.) 1	Chakhar, Banaripara, Barisal; Rajakhali, Dhumki, Patuakhali
BINA	3	BINA, Netrokona	SO (Livestock) 1 SO (Fisheries) 1 SO (Econ.) 1	Suair, Hatnaiya, Mohongonj, Netrokona
BFRI (Forest)	3	BFRI (Forest), Khagrachari	SO (Livestock) 1 SO (Crops) 1 SO (Econ.) 1	Komalchari, Khagrachari Naikhongchari, Bandarban
BJRI	3	BJRI, Manikgonj	SO (Livestock) 1 SO (Crops) 1 SO (Fisheries) 1	Shibalaya, Manikgonj
BFRI (Fisheries)	3	BFRI (Fisheries), Mymensingh	SO (Livestock) 1 SO (Crops) 1 SO (Econ.) 1	Douhakhola, Gouripur
BSRI	3	BSRI, Pabna	SO (Livestock) 1 SO (Fisheries) 1 SO (Econ.) 1	Muladuli, Ishurdi, Pabna Bagabari, Sirajgonj Pushpapara, Pabna

i) Task force committee

A National Task Force Committee consisting of a Chairman, a Member-Secretary and 24 members was formed to review the progress and oversee the FSRD activities. Details are shown in Annex-A

ii) Inception workshop

A day long workshop was organized by Bangladesh Agricultural Research council (Corps Division) on 13 June, 2012 at BARC Conference room-1 to review the inception report of Farming Systems Research and Development sub-project of different implementing institutes. About 60 scientists from BARI, BRRI, BINA, BJRI, BLRI, BFRI (Forest), and BFRI (Fisheries) participated in the workshop. Ten papers were presented in the workshop. Irrespective of different participating institutes, several decisions were made in the meeting which was sent to the Principal Investigators of partner organizations for improvement of the FSRD activities.

iii) Development and distribution of baseline survey questionnaire

Benchmark/Baseline survey is being widely used to generate basic information, identification of problems, researchable and key issues related to crop, agro-forestry, and livestock and fisheries systems including economic and social aspects of livelihood improvement. Keeping this in view and as per decision of inception workshop, BARC Coordination Unit in collaboration with an agricultural economist developed a structured questionnaire and distributed among the Principal Investigators of participating institutes. Number of respondents and the name of the locations surveyed are presented in Table 3.

Table 3. Location and number of respondents surveyed by implementing institutes

Implementing institute	Location	Respondents (no.)
BARI	Lahirirhat, Rangpur,	50
	Pushpapara, Pabna,	50
	Hat Gobindapur, Faridpur,	60
	Ellenga, Tangail,	50
	Kusumhati, Sherpur,	50
	Rajakhali, Patuakhali,	60
	Hazirhat, Noakhali,	60
	Kadam Shahor, Rajshahi,	60
	Jalalpur, Sylhet	50
BRRI	Joghotpur, Sayestagonj, Habiganj Sadar	50
	Chakhar, Banaripara, Barisal	60
BJRI	Shibalaya, Manikgonj	30
	Mahinanda, Kishoreganj	30
BSRI	Muladuli, Ishuardi, Pabna	50
BLRI	Bagabari, Sirajganj	60
	Naikhongchari, Bandarban	218
BFRI (Forest)	Komalchari, Khagrachari	40
BFRI (Fisheries)	Dohakhola, Gouripur, Mymensingh	50
BINA	Suair & Hatnaiya, Mohanganj, Netrokona	60
Total=		1138

v) Work plan workshop

A Work plan workshop was held on 16 July 2012 at BARC Conference room-1 to review the proposed research plans of FSRD activities for participating organizations under SPGR sub-project. Thirty seven participants were present in the workshop. Respective PIs of involved institutes presented their research programs. After threadbare discussion, the following decisions were made and sent to the respective PIs of participating institutes.

Pictorial View of Planning Workshop



Inaugural session



Technical session

vii) **Field Monitoring / visit**

To monitor the progress of FSRD activities at farmers' level, BARC Coordination Unit visited different FSRD sites of participating institutes. In this connection, several visits were made by the project coordinator, associate coordinator, PI and the technical staff during May 2012 to September 2013. Before visiting the sites, the visiting team sit together with the site level working scientists and associated field staff and discussed the purpose of the visit. During field visit observations were recorded and the participating farmers were interviewed to know their reactions about FSRD activities. Comments / suggestions made based on field observations were incorporated in the visit report and sent to the respective organizations for necessary action.

Pictorial View of Field Monitoring



Field monitoring at Sylhet



Field monitoring at Rajshahi



Field monitoring at Sherpur



Field monitoring at Gouripur, Mymensingh



Field monitoring at Sherpur



Field monitoring at Tangail

viii) Coordination meeting

A coordination meeting on Farming Systems Research and Development (FSRD) was organized by Crops Division on 17 November 2013 at the conference room-1 of Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council to discuss the research program of 2013-2014 Rabi season. All Principal Investigators (PIs) of FSRD Sub- project were present in the meeting. Decisions made by the house were sent to the PIs for necessary action.

11. Research highlight

- A National Task Force Committee consists of 26 members was formed to oversee the project activities.
- A structured questionnaire for baseline survey was developed and distributed among the Principal Investigators of participating organizations to generate basic information of FSRD sites.
- An inception workshop was organized by the Crops Division, BARC on 13 June 2012 to review the inception report of FSRD Sub-project of partner organizations. Sixty scientists from NARS institutes were present and 10 reports were presented in the workshop. Comments and suggestions made by the participants were sent to the respective organizations for strengthening their research programs.
- Two orientation training courses, one for 19 newly recruited Field Assistants and the other for 30 newly recruited Scientific Officers of different disciplines were organized to abreast them with FSRD activities. Besides, 30 project scientists and 30 core scientists involved in farming systems research (FSR) of different institutes were imparted training on different aspects of farming systems to improve their skills.
- A Work plan workshop was held on 16 July 2012 to review the FSDR research plans of participating organizations. After threadbare discussions, pertinent comments/suggestions were made to improve the research plan.
- Two progress review workshops were held in the conference room-1 of BARC to review the progress of ongoing research activities of all FSRD sites.
- Field monitoring/visits were made by BARC Coordination Unit to monitor the progress of FSRD activities at farmer's level. Visit reports along with comments/suggestions were prepared after each visit and sent to the concerned Principal Investigators for necessary action.
- Reports (Field monitoring, monthly, half yearly and annual progress) and statement of expenditure (SoE) of BARC- component were prepared and submitted to the concerned authority of PIU- BARC.

12. Major Attainments

a. Technical: Output, Outcome and Impact

Major technical activities	Output	Outcome	Impact	Remarks
1. Manpower recruitment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 30 SOs, 19 FAs and project technical staff that include One Farming System Expert, One Senior Scientific Officer, One Computer Operator and One Office Attendant had been recruited 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Successful accomplishment of project activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project will be terminated within the timeframe along with promising technologies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project personnel should be efficient to run the project smoothly
2. Development and distribution of baseline questionnaire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Questionnaire as a tool for data collection would be available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Household information of the farmers and FSRD sites had been identified Based on baseline findings, FSRD programs were developed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identified researchable issues may be used for future studies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baseline survey needs to be finished well ahead of starting of the experiments
3. Organized: Inception workshop, Work plan workshop & Coordination meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Issues related to problems & its solutions came out through active participation of the participants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Means for solving field level research problems will be available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FSRD activities will be promoted without much delay 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Frequent coordination meeting needs to be organized for solving the field problems
4. Field Monitoring/ Visit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deviation from approved research program had been identified Progress had been monitored 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Successful establishment of experiment & development activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Farm productivity & farmers' income will be increased 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Field visit/ monitoring needs to be ensured
12. Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Skills of the participants had been improved 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training increased the technical skills of the participants and consequently led to an increase in confidence for conducting farming systems research 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trainees will be able to abreast the farmers about FSRD technologies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training may be organized throughout the project period for capacity building of the project personnel

b) Procurement:

Procurement of capital items had been completed

c) HRD/ Training

Two orientation trainings, one for 30 newly recruited Scientific Officers and the other for 19 newly recruited Field Assistants were organized on 27-28 November 2012 and 23-24 September 2012, respectively to acquaint them with Farming Systems Research and Development (FSRD) technologies. Besides, training on FSRD technologies was also organized in two batches each having 30 scientists at BARI to improve the skills of both

project and core scientists of the participating institutes. Resource persons from NARS institutes, BAU, department of fisheries and department of livestock provided training to the participants. The detail of the training program is presented in Table 4.

Table 4. Training on Orientation and Farming Systems Technologies

Kind of training	No. of participants	Identity of incumbent / resource persons	Remarks
1. Orientation training course on Farming System Research and Development (Field Assistants)	19	NARS institutes	Successfully completed
2. Orientation training course on Farming System Research and Development (Scientific Officers)	30	NARS institutes	Successfully completed
3. Training on Farming Systems Research and Development (Scientists), Batch-1	30	NARS institutes	Successfully completed
4. Training on Farming Systems Research and Development (Scientists), Batch-2	30	NARS institutes	Successfully completed

Training Programs in Picture



Inaugural session



Training for Scientists

d) Financial

Sl. No	Major Head	Fund released(Tk.)	Expenditure (Tk.)	Balance (Tk.)	Remarks
1.	Contractual Staff Salary (max. 20%)	1161118.00	2248511.00	-1087393.00	Balanced money remains unspent due to delayed recruitment.
2.	Operating Expenses (max. 12%)	403607.00	261641.00	141966.00	
3.	Vehicle hiring, Fuel, Oil and Maintenance (max.13%)	378295.00	258099.00	120196.00	
4.	Field Research/Lab expenses and supplies (max. 45%)	0.00	0.00	0.00	
5.	Training/Workshop/ Seminar etc. (Max. 5%)	1085182.00	425600.00	659582.00	
6.	Publications and Printing (max. 5%)	277509.00	0.00	277509.00	
7.	Capital Expense (max. 30%)	539370.00	1077080.00	-537710.00	
8.	Contingencies (Max. 5%)	757052.00	262655.00	494397.00	
Total =		4602133.00	4533586.00	68547.00	

e. Materials developed/Publication made

A training manual entitled “Farming Systems Research and Development” has been developed and distributed among the trainees.

13. Sub-project Auditing

Types of Audit (e.g BARC/Implementing agency/FAPAD/World Bank/others)	Major observations/issues/objections raised, if any	Status at the sub-project end	Remarks
Implementing agency & FAPAD	No objection	December, 2013	

14. Reporting

Activities	Date of submission as per Plan/ Schedule	Actual date of submission	Remarks
a. Inception report	1 st week of March 2012	13 June, 2012	
b. Monthly reports: February-April, 2012 May, 2012 June, 2012 July, 2012 August, 2012 September, 2012 October, 2012 November, 2012 December, 2012 January, 2013 February, 2013 March, 2013 April, 2013 May, 2013 June, 2013 July, 2013 August, 2013 September, 2013 October, 2013 November, 2013 December, 2013 January, 2014 February, 2014 March, 2014 April, 2014	1 st week of May, 2012 1 st week of June, 2012 1 st week of July, 2012 1 st week of August, 2012 1 st week of Sept, 2012 1 st week of October, 2012 1 st week of Nov, 2012 1 st week of Dec, 2012 1 st week of January, 2013 1 st week of February, 2013 1 st week of March, 2013 1 st week of April, 2013 1 st week of May, 2013 1 st week of June, 2013 1 st week of July, 2013 1 st week of August, 2013 1 st week of September, 2013 1 st week of October, 2013 1 st week of November, 2013 1 st week of December, 2013 1 st week of January, 2014 1 st week of February, 2014 1 st week of March, 2014 1 st week of April, 2014 1 st week of May, 2014	10 May, 2012 11 June, 2012 18 July, 2012 14 August, 2012 30 September, 2012 11 October, 2012 13 November, 2012 09 December, 2012 08 January, 2013 20 February, 2013 11 th March, 2013 8 th April, 2013 8 th May, 2013 12 th June, 2013 13 th July, 2013 13 th August, 2013 18 th September, 2013 4 th October, 2013 6 th November, 2013 13 th December, 2013 6 th January, 2014 6 th February, 2014 6 th March, 2014 6 th April, 2014 6 th May, 2014	No deviation
c. Statement of expenditure (SoE)	Same as monthly reports	Same as monthly reports	SoE of every month was attached with monthly report
d. Quarterly report(s): February - April, 2012 August - October, 2012	1 st week of May, 2012 1 st week of Nov, 2012	30 September, 2012 13 November, 2012	
e. Six monthly report: February - July, 2012	1 st week of August, 2012	30 September, 2012	
f. Annual report: February 12-January 2013 February 13-January 2014	1 st week of February, 2013 1 st week of February, 2014	10 th February, 2013 10 th February, 2014	
g. Procurement plan	-	-	Completed
h. Field Monitoring Report(s)	During the project period		After every field visit, visit report along with comments / suggestions were made and sent to the concerned PIs

15. Problems/Constraints

- Delayed recruitment of project personnel
- Delayed fund release due to delayed submission of SoE by partner organizations
- Sudden resignation of some project Scientific Officers and Field Assistants from the job created problem to proper implementation of the sub-project at field level

16. Suggestions for future

- Adequate number of Scientific Officers and Field Assistants should be recruited for posting in each FSRD site
- SoE of all components needs to be submitted to PIU in due time so that after necessary reimbursement the concerned authority may release fund without delay

Signature of the Coordinator/Principal Investigator (as applicable)

Date.....

Seal

Counter signature of the Head of the agency/authorized representative

Date.....

Seal

11. Members of National Task Force Committee of FSRD sub-project

1.	Member Director (Crops), BARC	Chairman
2.	Director (Research) / representative, BRRI	Member
3.	Director (Research) / representative, BARI	Member
4.	Director (Research) / representative, BSRI	Member
5.	Director (Research) / representative, BJRI	Member
6.	Director (Research) / representative, BINA	Member
7.	Director (Research) / representative, BLRI	Member
8.	Director (Research) / representative, BFRI(Forestry)	Member
9.	Director (Research) / representative, BFRI (Fisheries)	Member
10.	Director (Research) / representative, BAURES, BAU	Member
11.	Director (Field Service), DAE	Member
12.	PI (Principal Investigator), FSRD BARC Unit, BARC	Member
13.	PI , FSRD site, BARI	Member
14.	PI, FSRD site, BRRI	Member
15.	PI, FSRD site, BSRI	Member
16.	PI, FSRD site, BJRI	Member
17.	PI, FSRD site, BLRI	Member
18.	PI, FSRD site, BINA	Member
19.	PI, FSRD site, BFRI (Forest))	Member
20.	PI, FSRD site, BFRI (Fisheries)	Member
21.	PI, FSRD site, BAURES	Member
22.	MD (Fisheries), BARC	Member
23.	MD (Livestock), BARC	Member
24.	MD (AERS), BARC	Member
25.	Dr. S. M. Altaf Hossain, Ex. Professor, BAU	Expert Member
26.	Director, TTMU, BARC	Member Secretary

(N.B. representative, not below the rank of CSO)